

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 08979 091043Z

12

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 090958Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 106

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY RABAT 807

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T CAIRO 8979

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JO, IS

SUBJECT: TIME INTERVIEWS ARAFAT

1. WILTON WYNN, TIME'S CAIRO BUREAU CHIEF, HAD PRIVATE INTERVIEW WITH ARAFAT EVENING OF LAST SESSION OF RABAT SUMMIT. ONLY PLO'S AHMAD AZIRI WAS PRESENT. INTERVIEW IS APPARENTLY PUBLISHED IN CURRENT EDITION OF TIME (WHICH WE HAVE NOT SEEN). WYNN'S UNEDITED DISPATCH INCLUDED REMARK BY ARAFAT THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO MEET SECRETARY KISSINGER AS LONG AS OCCURENCE OF MEETINGS IS NOT SECRET AND PLO EXCOMM APPROVES.

2. WYNN TOLD EMBOFF NOV 8 THAT AFTER REITERATING TRADITIONAL FATAH LINE THAT PLO'S GOAL IS UNIFIED NON-SECTARIAN STATE IN PALESTINE, ARAFAT MADE FOLLOWING OFF-THE-RECORD RPT OFF-THE-RECORD COMMENTS. PLO IS PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE WITH ISRAEL, BELIEVING IT HAD NOTHING TO LOSE. ARAFAT ENVISIONS THAT AFTER PASSAGE OF CONSIDERABLE PERIOD OF TIME A WEST BANK/GAZA STATE CAN BE ESTABLISHED WHICH WOULD CO-EXIST WITH ISRAEL. ALTHOUGH HE NEVER SPECIFIED THAT SUCH A TRUNCATED PALESTINIAN STATE WOULD "RENOUNCE FORCE", THE IMPLICATION OF PEACEFUL

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COEXISTANCE WAS CLEAR IN HIS COMMENT THAT ISRAEL AND THIS STATE

WOULD "COMPETE" COMMERCIALY ANDCULTURALLY. WYNN BELIEVES THAT ARAFAT HAD IN MIND THE KIND OF QUASI-NORMAL INTERSTATE RELATIONS WHICH WOULD PERMIT A CONTINUED MOVEMENT OF WEST BANK LABORERS TO ISRAEL. ARAFAT JUSTIFIED HIS "PEACEFUL COEXISTANCE" CONCEPT BY SAYING THAT HE BELIEVES THAT AS TIME PASSES THE YOUNGER GENERATION OF ISRAELIS WILL ADMIT THE MISTAKES AND SHORTSIGHTEDNESS OF THEIR FATHERS AND ULTIMATELY BE PREPARED TO CONSIDER SOME KIND OF UNITED PALESTINE.

3. COMMENT: OBVIOUSLY, AS WYNN POINTED OUT TO EMBOFF, ARAFAT WOULD DENY HAVING MADE ANY SUCH STATEMENT SHOULD THESE VIEWS BE PUBLICLY ATTRIBUTED TO HIM. NEVERTHELESS, IT IS EQUALLY OBVIOUS THAT ARAFAT EXPECTED HIS COMMENTS TO BE PASSED TO THE USG.
EILTS

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NNN

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